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Library resources offered for coping with Covid-19

HOLYOKE – The Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners has created the “We’re in this Together” digital library on the agency’s public portal, mass.gov/libraries. It gives residents easy access to “free-for-now” resources as well as library resources that are always free. On the site residents can access new resources that many non-profits, authors, companies, and others are offering to residents who are at home due to Covid-19 outbreak.

Free and open access to online resources is nothing new to Massachusetts libraries. The MBLC, in partnership with the Massachusetts Library

RESOURCES, 2

HCC students earn Grinspoon awards

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Community College student Heather Reynolds Labonte grew up in an old farmhouse in Granby, Mass., in the shadow of Long Mountain, not far from the Robert Frost Trail.

The historic home dates back to the late 1700’s and had once been a stop on the Underground Railroad. In the early 20th century it was owned by

AWARDS, 8

Harmony House receives grant

HOLYOKE – The Beveridge Family Foundation has awarded a \$35,000 grant to Harmony House of Western Massachusetts to be used towards the on-going renovation of their new home for the terminally ill, located in Chicopee, Massachusetts.

Harmony House is currently refurbishing a house in the Aldenville section of Chicopee, which when completed will be a five-bedroom home offering compassionate care for the terminally ill, specifically those who have limited resources for special care in the final stages of life. A

GRANT 16

Vázquez Matos named new receiver of public schools

HOLYOKE – Last Thursday afternoon, Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education Jeffrey Riley announced he has chosen the individual to be the next receiver for the Holyoke Public Schools.



Dr. Alberto Vázquez Matos has been selected to be the new superintendent/receiver of the Holyoke Public Schools. He will take the new position on July 1.

Submitted photo

Riley sent the following letter to the community, confirming the appointment.

“Superintendent/Receiver Stephen Zrike announced in December that he would step down at the end of June. I am grateful to him for the five years he has spent in Holyoke, and we will continue to build on the improvements that he helped create.

“In that spirit, I am pleased to announce that I have appointed Alberto Vázquez Matos to be the next receiver for the Holyoke Public Schools. Dr. Vázquez Matos is currently deputy superintendent of the Hartford Public Schools.

Born in Puerto Rico, Dr. Vázquez Matos relocated at a young age to New York, where he grew up and was educated. He began his career in education immediately after graduating from college and has served as a teacher, academic dean, assistant principal, adjunct professor, associate superintendent, superintendent, and chief of staff in various communities in New York and Florida. In those roles, he developed district-wide strategic plans, led transformation work, and developed school and district policies and systems.

Most recently, Dr. Vázquez Matos has served as the deputy superintendent of the Hartford Public Schools in Connecticut. He has led efforts to develop

See RECEIVER, page 4

SOLDIERS HOME STRUGGLES CONTINUE



The Holyoke Soldiers Home remains on lockdown with most of the residents being treated in Holyoke Medical Center for COVID-19. As of early this week, more than 75 percent of the population at the Soldiers Home have tested positive for the virus. Soldiers Home officials have working to making administrative changes in order to address the problems going forward. The flag remains at half-staff to remember those Soldiers Home residents who have passed away in the past two months.

Photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Courts remain closed through June 1

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts’ many courts remain closed after the state Supreme Judicial Court ordered courts to remain closed to the general public through June 1.

But one thing that has not been as clear to many individuals is how to access a modified court system while the state of emergency is in effect.

The Hampden, Hampshire, and Northwestern District Attorneys’ offices are operating with a reduced staff in person at the courthouse. Judges in all the courts are on a rotation as well to limit their exposure to the public.

According to a message

from the Supreme Judicial Court, court appearances are still limited to “emergency matters.” The newest order was issued on April 27, and stated the following:

“The Supreme Judicial Court today issued an updated order, which will be effective May 4, 2020, regarding the operation of Massachusetts state courts and courthouses during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Under the new order, until at least June 1, 2020, all courts of the Commonwealth will continue to be open to conduct court business, but courthouses will continue to be closed to the general public, except where entry is required to address emergency matters that cannot be addressed virtu-

ally (by telephone, videoconference, email, or comparable means, or through the electronic filing system).

Jury trials in both criminal and civil cases in state courts are postponed to a date no earlier than July 1, 2020. All bench trials, in both criminal and civil cases are postponed to a date no earlier than June 1, unless they may be conducted virtually by agreement of the parties and of the court. The new order also extends various deadlines.”

With jury trials off, anyone with jury service should considered it cancelled through July 1.

Because of social distancing, bench trials are also postponed.

See COURTS, page 2

Special election set for Tuesday

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

In a coronavirus-marred world, it’s hard to think about many of the staples of normal life. But some have to keep happening.

After a nearly two-month delay, the Second Hampden and Hampshire District will be represented once again as a special election will name a new state senator.

The seat was vacated by Donald Humason, who after many years in the legislature as

See ELECTION, page 4

Wistariahurst launches Covid-19 archive project

Public contributions of stories and images requested

HOLYOKE – Wistariahurst, a historic site, archive and cultural center owned and operated by the city of Holyoke, has announced a project to document the local experience of the COVID-19 pandemic in Holyoke.

Members of the public are encouraged to submit stories, photos, audio files or video to a growing online collection that will give future researchers a glimpse at what life was like during this crisis for people in Holyoke. All contributions that relate to Holyoke are welcome and will become a part of Holyoke’s digital archival collection held at Wistariahurst. Due to the sensitive and ever-changing nature of the disaster, submissions will not be released as part of the public archives until 2025. Submissions are made online at www.Wistariahurst.org/Corona-Archive-Holyoke.

“As a community archive, we simply had to find a way to capture the community’s voice during these unprecedented times,” says Penni Martorell, Holyoke City Historian and Wistariahurst Curator. “What each of us is experiencing and how it is affecting us as individuals is different. Capturing all that difference, all the tiny moments, is what makes the historical record most interesting and most accurate.”

The goal of this project is to gather varied points-of-view of what is happening during this historic moment. In order to capture a broad swath of experiences



The Wistariahurst Museum is working to create an online collection and archive for life during the coronavirus pandemic.

File photo

from the community, Wistariahurst has decided to crowdsource a digital archive of the virus and its impact on everyday life. The end result will be a community collection, written and recorded in people’s own words, providing a trove of primary sources for future readers. As a Holyoke-based archive, the collection will be focused on personal experiences and stories related to Holyoke including contributions from those who live or work in Holyoke, had an experience in Holyoke, saw an image or sign in Holyoke, and/or recorded a conversation

with someone from Holyoke.

“This is an open invitation to our community to share their story as part of a collective memory of these times, preserved for researchers in the future,” emphasizes Martorell. “Every voice is important.”

In addition to those who will undoubtedly be formally studying this crisis in the future, the resulting collection is envisioned as a teaching tool for students to learn about how history is made, the importance of individual stories standing alongside official sources,

and related questions about who makes history, how memories are curated and used and who has access.

About the Submission Process

The submission form is in English and Spanish and submissions can be made in any language.

Contributed materials can be in the form of:

- a digital image (JPG);
- a digital audio or video file (MP3, MP4);
- a text document (TXT, DOC, PDF);
- a link to a website or web archive of significance (<http://>);
- a plain text submission

Submitters will be asked to provide an email contact and sign a release form. The material submitted will be part of the public record and freely searchable and usable by researchers in the future. In addition, please be mindful of HIPPA laws. We cannot accept any material that references the health of anyone other than the submitter. Please share your personal health stories and do not use names or identifying info when discussing other positive cases or health details.

There are some limitations on file sizes due to the capacity of our collection process. Collected material and files will not be shared until May of 2025.

To view what a similar project conducted on a national scale looks like, please visit Arizona State University’s A Journal of The Plague Year: An Archive of COVID 19 which can be seen at www.COVID19.Omeka.net.

State awards tax credit donors to OneHolyoke Community Development

HOLYOKE – OneHolyoke Community Development Corporation has announced it has received a total of \$100,000 in Community Investment Tax Credits (CITC) issued by a Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) program designed to support community development organizations such as OneHolyoke.

Community Investment Tax Credits (CITC) provide a 50% tax credit, of the total investment and donation to OneHolyoke, against Commonwealth of Massachusetts tax liability. The CITC program can also be utilized as a refundable tax credit. The intent of CITCs is to stimulate contributions and donations to organizations doing complex community development work where donors receive a significant tax benefit as a result. If the donor does not have tax liability, a credit and payment, tied to the contribution, can be issued to the donor (for instance, a \$1,000 donation would yield \$500 payment in return).

The announcement serves as an invitation for companies, foundations or indi-

viduals to take advantage of the newest round of tax credits that are allocated by the Commonwealth on an annual basis.

According to Michael Moriarty, Executive Director of OneHolyoke CDC, “We are reaching out to donors to invest in our work in inner-city Holyoke, which has the dual benefit of accelerating the transformational change we are leading and, at the same time, affording a significant tax credit to those donors and funders who support our work. This unique program offers a significant financial benefit and the opportunity to help make change and improve the lives of many struggling in Holyoke.

Donors who invest in a community investment plan such as OneHolyoke CDC are providing flexible working capital that can be used by the organization to seed new programs, fill funding gaps and leverage other resources. If the donor does not have sufficient tax liability, the credit is refundable and the Commonwealth will issue a check for the balance of the credit to the donor. The maximum donation each year of the

program is \$2 million per tax paying entity. The minimum donation each year is \$1,000.

OneHolyoke received the current round of CITCs as a result of a business plan it submitted to the DHCD. Established in 1975 as Olde Holyoke Development Corporation to address blight in Holyoke’s Flats area, OneHolyoke is working to improve the lives of low- and moderate-income residents.

OneHolyoke’s plan includes a range of community investments and strategies, including: support for an early literacy initiative and the Holyoke-The City That Reads program; a plan to regularly seek community input through engagement meetings; playing a leadership role in the Complete Count initiative in Holyoke’s effort to count all residents as part of the U.S. Census now underway; the growth of the Flats Community Building, a neighborhood social facility; and, the creation of more affordable housing in Holyoke.

Moriarty said, “We hope investors

will look at the work we are doing and will invest in the number of initiatives we are undertaking to raise individuals and families out of poverty in Holyoke.”

CITC is designed to enable local residents and stakeholders to work with and through community development corporations (CDCs) to partner with nonprofit, public, and private entities to improve economic opportunities for low- and moderate-income households and other residents in urban, rural, and suburban communities across the Commonwealth. CDCs accomplish this through adoption of community investment plans to undertake community development programs, policies, and activities.

OneHolyoke builds new homes, improves and manages a portfolio of multi-family buildings and, in partnership with the city, offers loan and grant opportunities to property owners that need to improve their properties. The organization has a particular focus on the value of homeownership, both for the families we serve and for the social and financial well-being of the City of Holyoke.

RESOURCES, from page 1

System, offers Massachusetts residents free access to research databases with no library card needed. Residents can access more than 350,000 eBooks and Audiobooks through the new program LEA. They can also access online resources from the Boston Public Library by signing up for an eCard which allows them to stream movies, music, and TV series. Historic documents and photos are available with no library card needed through the Digital Commonwealth. This is in addition to all of the online resources that are offered by public libraries across the Commonwealth.

These resources have been supplemented by additional databases from Gale and eBooks from TumbleBooks

and EBSCO. Museums around the world remain open through virtual tours, and authors and illustrators are offering storytimes and drawing lessons through their YouTube channel, and Public Libraries have also continued serving their patrons online. Many have begun offering their regular storytimes streaming live on Facebook or YouTube, others are offering free mindfulness classes, knitting classes, and virtual book clubs.

You can see all of the free available resources by going to libraries.state.ma.us/pages/free-resources. The list will continue to be updated as more free resources become available.

Even though the doors are temporarily closed, we are still here to help you.

Contact us at library@holyoke.org

COURTS, from page 1

poned. Many of the rules regarding a person’s right to a “speedy” trial have been temporarily suspended. Additionally, the statute of limitations on many different types of crimes is also temporarily suspended.

The SJC is keeping a running justice system, utilizing many other methods that others are using to communicate such as telephone teleconferencing, videoconferencing, email and other means.

With clerks’ offices still open, individuals needing assistance can contact their respective clerk’s office. Clerk’s offices remain open in all courts, and they are staffed for people to call and ask questions.

In terms of criminal activity, the courts are still processing and arraign-

ing suspects. Arraignments have also occurred remotely and through alternate means. In most cases, arraignments occur with an individual in jail, while their attorney, a prosecutor, and judge conduct an arraignment by teleconference.

One thing that will need to be figured out when courts are able to resume their regular activity, is how to cure the backlog of criminal cases that will keep building up before July 1.

Examples of emergencies where an individual can access the courts include: Restraining orders, or situations where an individual poses a threat of danger to themselves or others. Most civil matters, however, will have to wait.

While the governor has introduced a gradual re-opening plan, the court has its own jurisdiction to decide how it will re-open its regular operations.

Lori McKenna offers tips for online learning

By Shelby Macri
smacri@turley.com

HOLYOKE – The remainder of the academic year will be conducted by online learning, and teachers understand that this can be a challenging way to learn. Assistant Principal Lori McKenna gave a few tips to help students and parents at home.

Since the school year will be held by remote learning, students are required to do all their work on and over the computer. Having to sit in front of a computer screen for hours at a time can be damaging to students eyes and heads, causing headaches and eye irritation. It's important to take a break during work and to take a step back from the computer or phone screen.

"Families have some extra time to spend together during this time. Make a meal together, take a walk, play a board game, or share an interesting personal story or one you saw on the news," McKenna said. "It is easy to just stay on your phone, play a video game, or watch TV endlessly. Take advantage of the time being home together and schedule activities that keep you connected and communication as a family."

While there are limited places to go in town and in public, backyards and sidewalks are unaffected and a get source for getting the family outside.

It's important to stay safe and have a mask or pair of gloves on your person when taking a walk outside. There are also many State Parks that are restricted but open during this time, parents can check the rules and availability of parks in order to explore there with their family. Getting outside and having a breath of fresh air is a great way to reset yourself and clear away stress during this pandemic. It's also a great way to get out of the house, with all or most family members being home and inside all day, tensions can arise and walking outside can help to settle things.

Another way parents can help their kids is by helping them keep to a schedule each day, like the schedule of classes in school. Students have gotten used to the regular structure of the school day, so it's important to try to create a similar structure at home.

"There are times that teachers are meeting with their students for live or recorded sessions as well as for office hours to support them with their work," McKenna said. "This is a very different way of learning for kids, but the more we can make it feel like we are in school, such as by keeping a schedule and doing the kinds of tasks and thinking we did when we were in school, the more it will help students to feel comfortable and will help them to engage."

Parents can and should ask their kids

what they're doing for and in their classes, and parents can ask their kids to share a piece of work that they submitted. This can help to show parents that their kids are doing the correct work, and it gives a chance for kids to share thoughts, ideas, stories, and more, with their parents. This will also help kids to keep focus on their work and their schooling. It's important for parents to be partially involved in this new schooling process, so that they know how hard their kids are working, they know their kids are actually doing and submitting school work, they know who their kids teachers are and how to contact them, and so that parents can try to help ease the stress on their kids.

"The first thing that needs to be said is that school is just not the same in this virtual world of learning, but teachers are working super hard to try to make it the best experience the can for their students," McKenna said. "Teachers want their students to keep connecting with them and their peers. Teachers want their students to be thinking and learning, and have worked with their colleagues to create lessons and tasks that they think will be engaging and interesting for their students."

While this remote learning can be hard on students and families, it's important to remember that this is no easier on teachers and they're putting forth a lot of effort to change and enhance the curric-

ulum to make it easier for kids to learn during this time. There are academic teams and teachers are actively discussing new ways to improve their lesson plans and remote learning.

If students have questions for their teachers, or they do not understand an assignment, they can and need to communicate with their teachers. This is especially important now during remote learning, because if a student is having trouble their teachers won't be able to see it. Communication between students and teachers as well as between students and their parents, is very important right now. Students can join or request office hours from a teacher, they can send an email, or they can send a message through Google Classroom. Teachers want their students to work hard during this time to earn their credits, and teachers also want their students to know that they want to hear from them and see them complete their work to the best of their ability. Parents can remind their kids of these things and can encourage them on a daily basis to get their schoolwork done.

If parents or students have further questions or concerns they can call their corresponding schools to leave a message, or they can contact their students teachers through email. While things have changed during this time, the dedication of teachers has not changed and continues to be a fuel for online learning.

Share your stories of staying at home

The Holyoke Sun wants to know how you're coping with the coronavirus closures and how they've changed all of our lives — no school, no work, social distancing and staying at home.

We can't meet our neighbors in the schoolyards, playing fields or workplaces of Holyoke, but we can all share a few snapshots of what life's like with the kids in the house and the home office working overtime. Take a minute to send

in an update on how you're doing, what fun enrichment activities the kids have been up to, or anything else that's made the past two weeks a special time in your home. Include full names of the writer or photographer, and anyone visible in each photo. We'll print the best entries in next week's newspaper, and in subsequent weeks as the state of emergency continues. The best way to contact us is at thesun@turley.com.

We would also be glad to publish Holyoke children's artwork, essays or photos created during the school closure. Include the creator's full name, age, and school attended.

For all submissions, also include a telephone number and email address. We won't publish this information, but may use it to verify identities or ask follow-up questions. Stay safe out there — and let us know how you're doing!





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HCC launches online summer youth programs

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Community College is teaming up with the company Black Rocket to offer 12 weeks’ worth of online summer programming for children 8 to 14-years-old.

Registration is now open for HCC’s Summer Youth Programs, which begin June 8 and run through the week of Aug. 24. HCC is not running its traditional on-campus summer youth programs this year because of COVID-19 restrictions.

“While the pandemic has upended all of our lives, HCC is still planning to offer an exciting, engaging array of summer programming for kids and teens,” said Michele Cabral, HCC executive director of professional development and corporate learning, who oversees HCC’s Summer Youth Programs. “We want to keep kids safe and healthy, but we also want to offer them alternate way to engage with others – and learn. Through Black Rocket, kids will be able to learn coding, design video games, play eSports, create YouTube videos and much more.”

The remote classes are conducted in real-time via computer, with each focused on building creativity, and problem-solving and critical thinking skills through play.

“They are meant to be fun as well as educational,” said Cabral. “This is not just another screen experience.”

Each of the Black Rocket programs runs three hours a day for five days.

Separately, but also starting June 8, HCC is running an online Youth



Holyoke Community College is teaming up with the company Black Rocket to offer 12 weeks’ worth of online summer programming for children 8 to 14-years-old.

Turley Publications courtesy photo

Dungeons and Dragons Adventure Campaign, where players can challenge their imaginations, solve puzzles and navigate epic quests. This program will run one day a week for six weeks, with each session three hours long.

All programs cost \$149 each.

Cabral said HCC is also exploring opportunities to add other courses.

“If we can provide on-campus programs in a safe manner, we will announce those in coming weeks,” said Cabral.

Updates, full course descriptions, computer requirements and registration information are available at: hcc.edu/summeryouth

June 8: Battle Royale: Make Your First Fortnite Style Video Game;

Minecraft Redstone Engineers; ROBLOX Makers; Dungeons and Dragons Adventure Campaign

June 15: Minecraft Modder; Video Game Animation

June 22: eSports Apprentice – Streamers and Gamers; Make Your First Video Game!

June 29: 3D Game Design with Unity; YouTube Content Creators

July 6: Code Breakers; Inventor’s League – Prototyping for the Future; Minecraft Designers

July 13: 3D Game Design with Unity; Minecraft Animators; Pokémon Masters: Designers & 3D Makers Unite!

July 20: Inventor’s League – Prototyping for the Future; Minecraft Designers; Rocket Kart Racers: Design A Mario Kart Style Game

July 27: Code Your Own Adventure! Interactive Storytelling; Minecraft Modders

Aug 3: Battle Royale: Make Your First Fortnite Style Video Game; Video Game Animation

Aug 10: Minecraft Redstone Engineers; Rocket Kart Racers: Design A Mario Kart Style Game; YouTube Content Creators

Aug 17: Minecraft Redstone Engineers; eSports Apprentice – Streamers and Gamers

Aug 24: Make Your First Video Game; Minecraft Animators

For more information please contact Valentyna Semyrog at vsemyrog@hcc.edu.

PLAYGROUNDS REMAIN VACANT



Aimed at keeping the risk of several people congregating minimized, the playgrounds throughout the city remain shuttered, with a very clear message being conveyed to area families, “Keep off.”

Photo by Gregory A. Scibelli

United Way’s donates toys to area children

SPRINGFIELD – To relieve the boredom of Hampden County’s children, the United Way of Pioneer Valley will be partnering with numerous community organizations to deliver over 1,000 educational, age-appropriate toys of various age and gender to families hit hard by COVID-19. The toys will be delivered to our office on Wednesday, May 13, and then made available to our partners based on need. Project Toybox will take advantage of partner organizations’ existing knowledge of families in their service areas to determine where the donated toys can make the most meaningful impact.



RECEIVER, from page 1

the district’s strategic operating plan, managed budget challenges, developed a budget formula for equitable school funding within the district, led the construction and renovation of four school buildings, and led efforts to improve outcomes for students in reading and math.

Dr. Vázquez Matos holds a bachelor of arts degree in Spanish and secondary education from St. Thomas Aquinas College, a master’s degree in school administration and supervision from Manhattan College, a professional diploma in advanced leadership studies from Manhattan College, and a doctorate in school administration from Walden University. In addition, he is in the process of completing a doctorate in second language research

from the Inter-American University of Puerto Rico.

I would like to thank everyone who shared their thoughts about the qualities they hoped to see in the district’s next superintendent/receiver. That feedback helped inform my selection of Dr. Vázquez Matos, and I look forward to the day when he can meet members of the Holyoke community in person. The district will share more information about virtual or in-person opportunities to connect with Dr. Vázquez Matos when possible.

For now, Dr. Zrike and the Holyoke Public Schools leadership team will work with Dr. Vázquez Matos to ensure a smooth transition. Dr. Vázquez Matos will officially begin his duties as receiver on July 1, 2020. I hope you will join me in welcoming him to the Holyoke community.”

ELECTION, from page 1

a house and senate member, elected for a more local job as mayor of the City of Westfield.

The special election to name his successor was set for March 31 with John Velis facing off against John Cain.

Velis is a major in the U.S. Army reserves and served in the Naval Reserves for eight years. He became a lieutenant and was eventually honorably discharged.

Velis, a Democrat, became state representative when Humason moved from the house to the senate several years ago. Velis won the open seat in 2013. He has served on multiple committees is passionate about his work on the Veterans and Federal Affairs assignment, where he is the vice chair. He is also on the Ways and Means committee. He was opposed by Daniel Allie in his first two elections

and has been unopposed in his last two in 2016 and 2018.

Cain is a Republican and a business owner from Southwick. He announced his bid for the seat in late December and is a newcomer to politics.

Cain was also in the military, serving as a Navy officer and he currently operates a construction and mechanical repair business in Feeding Hills. He is a volunteer firefighter in Southwick.

The Second Hampden and Hampshire District represents the communities of Agawam, Southwick, Tolland, Granville, Montgomery, Russell, Holyoke, Southampton, Easthampton, Westfield, and a small part of Chicopee.

Holyoke’s polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. with special considerations and rules for social distancing and maintaining a sanitary environment (see related press release, page X).



White ribbons are being sold to support health care workers during the COVID-19 crisis. Submitted photo

New white ribbon supports COVID-19 patients, health care workers

TAUNTON – M Products Company has created a new white support ribbon for COVID-19 health care workers fighting the war on the Coronavirus. If you're interested in supporting, email the quantity desired and city to direct the donation to:

Ribbons can be ordered at: ribbonforcovid19@gmail.com
Instagram: @covid19ribbon

Website: www.ribbonforcovid19.com
Profits will be donated to health care workers in local hospitals in honor of all medical professionals who risk their lives for the health and safety of others.
Support health care workers. Order your ribbons today. Please publish and make this a worldwide support effort.

CONSTRUCTION RESUMES



While some construction projects have been delayed or stopped due to coronavirus concerns, the Lyman Street bridge reconstruction was ongoing this week. Photo by Gregory A. Scibelli

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Guest Column

When duties call, heroes answer

By Joan E. B. Coombs



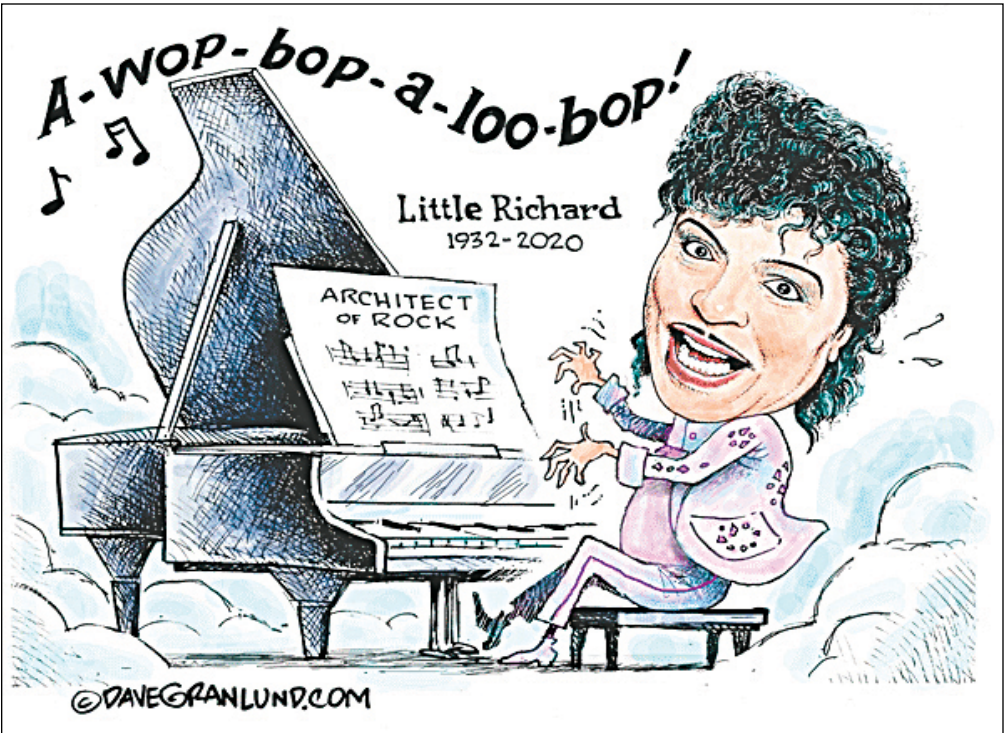
Heroic men and women of all sizes, shapes and ethnic backgrounds live and work within our towns and cities answering calls to duties for our safety and well-being. They use their trained skills and expertise to help us, either as a professional or volunteer, to help us. Whether it's providing helpful support and information, or it's a life-threatening situation, they answer the call to help.

Although Firefighter's Day was observed earlier on May4, 2020, honoring firefighters both locally and globally is appropriate every day. In European countries, it's also celebrated on the day honoring Saint Florian, the patron saint of firefighters. Symbolically, blue and red ribbons or lights represent red for fire and blue for water. The author of The Firefighter's Pledge is unknown, but that person is honored each time a Firefighter recites it, "I promise concern for others. A willingness to help all those in need. I promise courage-courage to face and conquer my fears. Courage to share and endure the ordeal of those who need me. I promise strength-strength of heart to bear whatever burdens might be placed upon me. Strength of body to deliver to safety all those placed within my care. I promise the wisdom to lead, the compassion to comfort and the love to serve unselfishly whenever I am called."

Currently, National Nurses Week was observed during May 6-12, 2020, with appreciation shown for School Nurses working in educational settings. International Nurses Day is celebrated globally on May12, on the birthday of Florence Nightingale. During a pinning ceremony, several years ago, I heard "The Nightingale Pledge" (written in 1893) shared: "I solemnly pledge myself before God and in the presence of this assembly to pass my life in purity and to practice my profession faithfully. I will abstain from whatever is deleterious and mischievous, and will not take or knowingly administer any harmful drug. I will do all in my power to maintain and elevated the standard of my profession and will hold in confidence all personal matters committed to my keeping and all family affairs coming to my knowledge, in the practice of my calling. With loyalty will I aid the physician in his work, and as a missioner of health, I will dedicate myself to devoted service for human welfare."

National Police Week is celebrated May 10-16, 2020. The C.O.P.S. Law Enforcement

See HEROES, page 7



Letters to the Editor

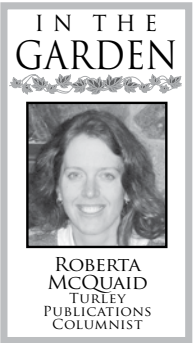
Help for old lilacs

While we never did get that new picket fence finished for Mother's Day, we did attack a patch of lilacs that were in terrible need of TLC. The poor things were growing in stone and covered in grapevine and a fair share of poison ivy. They really struggled last year and because of that have only a few buds. Once they are finished blooming we'll cut them back and do our best to enrich the soil and cross our fingers that they will rejuvenate. If you too like lilacs and are in need of a refresher course on their culture, read on.

I find it funny that for 50 weeks out of the year this nondescript bush blends into the background, but then, for two glorious weeks in May the spotlight is all its own. Sure, the flowers are great, but I think that they are merely a vessel for the intoxicating fragrance. I sniff it once and I am taken back to my childhood and the purple lilacs that bordered our back porch.

It is not difficult to succeed with lilacs providing you meet their basic requirements. Although they will survive in shade, they will not bloom there. Plant them in full sun in well-drained soil, avoiding areas that puddle water in summer or become encased in ice in winter. This is not to say lilacs like a drought, they do appreciate supplemental watering during dry spells. Lilacs prefer neutral to alkaline soil. Since soils in Massachusetts tend to be acidic adjusting the pH with lime is likely to be necessary.

Transplant in early spring or early fall, allowing a good 10 feet of space per lilac. If a hedgerow of like varieties is desired spacing can be reduced to six feet apart.



ROBERTA MCQUAID
TURLEY PUBLICATIONS
COLUMNIST

While lilacs may bloom the first season after transplanting, it may take three years for them to establish and flower regularly. As soon as flowering is finished remove spent blossoms down to the first leaf. Seed formation will be halted and energy will be conserved and redirected to next season's flower production. Since buds are set in summer it is important to tackle any necessary pruning soon after flowering as well. If pruning takes place in fall, winter, or in spring prior to bloom there is a good chance buds will be sacrificed.

If your lilacs have become too woody and blooms are sniffed by use of tippy-toes it is time for some rejuvenation. Start in the center of the bush at ground level and work out, cutting out the oldest stems. Then concentrate on reducing the overall height to about 8 feet. Severely overgrown lilacs can be handled in this manner over a three-year period, pruning out one third each year.

You can propagate your own lilacs simply by transplanting a sucker from the main bush. In spring, use a spade to separate it, but leave it in place until the fall, by that time it will have grown its own roots and will be safe to move.

Two diseases that affect the leaves of lilac are powdery mildew fungus and leafroll necrosis, both of which are more cosmetic than injurious to plant health. Powdery mildew appears as white blotches on the leaves in late summer and fall. Adequate spacing and regular pruning to improve air circulation may reduce the attack. Leafroll necrosis

See GARDEN, page 7



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A Quote

OF NOTE

Attitude is a choice.
Happiness is a choice.
Optimism is a choice.
Kindness is a choice.
Giving is a choice.
Respect is a choice.
Whatever choice you make makes you.
Choose wisely."

Roy T. Bennett

Letters to the Editor Policy

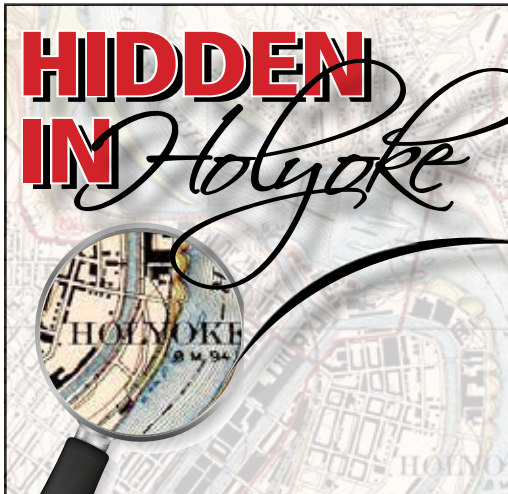
Letters to the Editor have a maximum of 350 words. We require writers to include their name, address and phone number in order for our office to authenticate authorship prior to publication. Addresses and phone numbers are not published.

Unsigned or anonymous letters will NOT be published.

We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions. Libelous, unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks or defamation of character are not allowed.

Deadline for submissions is Wednesday at noon.

Please email (preferred) letters to thesun@turley.com. Mailed letters can be sent to The Sun, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069.



Each week, The Holyoke Sun will feature a photo of a distinctive place, landmark, sculpture, sign or other recognizable object located somewhere in the city.

Think you know what or where it is? Readers are encouraged to submit their guesses to "Hidden in Holyoke" via email to TheSun@Turley.com. In order to qualify for the weekly contest, entries must be received by Wednesday at noon for inclusion into Friday's edition. Please include your full name with your guess in an email to TheSun@turley.com. If more than one correct answer is received, the names of all those who submitted guesses will be listed. For more information, contact The Holyoke Sun at 413-283-8398.



Last week's "Hidden in Holyoke" was the former Holyoke Boys and Girls Club building on Race Street.

Guest Column

Faith Matters: "A Coping Strategy"

By Ken Blanchard

There is a verse in the 12th chapter of the Book of Romans that recently caught my attention (Rom 12:12): "Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer." That's a pretty good coping strategy, no matter what life throws our way. The three things mentioned in this one verse are extremely relevant to the days we are currently living...and just might provide a good coping strategy for us!

"Be joyful in hope." Another scripture (Proverbs 13:12) says: "Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life." We can all certainly relate to that notion of "hope deferred" as we live through this time of the COVID19 pandemic. It can indeed "make the heart sick" when we realize no one really knows how long this thing will last; when we wonder when a vaccine might become available; when we watch proposed reopening dates change; when we see more and more events needing to be canceled. True, we don't know when

this pandemic will be over; we don't know when we will be able to safely gather with friends and family once again. But we trust that we will, somehow, someday – because our hope is in the Lord. We know that God is with us in good times and in bad, and it is in God that we have hope. At least a few dozen scriptures tell us our hope is in God. So allow hopeful thoughts to enter your mind, focus on God the Creator, Sustainer and Redeemer – and then we can truly be joyful in hope that we will be provided what we need! But it takes patience.

And so, the second part of that verse from Romans 12:12 – tells us to be "patient in affliction." Again, let's put that in the context of the times we are living in. Do you feel afflicted? I certainly do, even though I still have my health. I can only imagine how it would be if this were not the case! It's a common complaint – not just from those who have been stricken with the coronavirus,



but from all of us around the world. We are all afflicted in some way or another – whether in our own family or our local community or our global community – and it calls for an extraordinary amount of patience. The scriptures tell us to be patient. We can do that. We have to live as new creations, putting away our former ways and putting on new ways more in alignment with the image of God, recognizing that we are all in this together as God's children. Be patient in affliction.

The final piece of that scripture in Romans 12:12 tells us to be "faithful in prayer." To me, that's stating the obvious. That's where it all begins and where it all ends. We have no control. If this pandemic teaches the world anything, it should show us just how little control we actually have. We can't control how long we've been given to live; we can't control the behavior of people who willfully ignore restrictions put in place for the

safety of all; we can't control the spread of a tiny virus that enveloped the world and brought the world's economies to its knees; we can't control how others think or behave about that or anything else; we can't control anything but our own response to whatever comes our way. That's called self-control, and it comes to us when we surrender control – when we let go and let God – when we offer it up – whatever "it" is – to God in prayer. We can do that. We have to be faithful in prayer. God is in control.

One of my elderly church members that I used to visit regularly once said something that really stuck with me, and it is good advice for each and every one of us today. She said: "Well, at my age you just have to live each day, try to get a little joy out of it, and know that God is with you no matter what." That's what I'm talking about! That is a living example of what I hope you now see in Romans 12:12 as a pretty good coping strategy for life: "Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer." AMEN.



HEROES, from page 6

Survivors announced that due to the COVIC-19 health restrictions in Washington, D.C. and Virginia, and the travel advisories throughout the country, the National Police Week's public events were cancelled. However, Fallen Law Enforcement Officers will be honored during a Virtual Candlelight Vigil on May 13th. Special recognition and names of the each of the men and women, who died in the line of duty in 2019, will be read aloud. This important event held on the National Mall, (usually with more than 30,000 first responders,

surviving families and law enforcement attendees), will be Live Streamed and can be watched globally.

Heroes are among us ready to serve. They respond readily to disasters, emergencies and to domestic traumas.

One of the calls that heroes respond to is the three-digit number: "9-1-1" This "Universal Emergency Number" is for U.S. residents to use when needing emergency help. Canada also uses this same number. When seeing the "9-1-1" number-- it reminds us all of a take-your-breath-away day in 2001 when our country was shocked. That date? 9-11.

Let's be thankful that when duties call, heroes answer.

GARDEN, from page 6

causes leaves to curl and is thought to be the result of air pollution. Some varieties are more susceptible to these diseases than others, keep this in mind when making your selection at the nursery. There are hundreds of cultivars of the Common Lilac (*Syringa vulgaris*). Single and double-flowering forms are available, and

colors range from traditional lilac-purple to other shades of purple, pink, magenta and white.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to thesun@turley.com.

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7. Productive	44. Unfashionable person	5. Speak endlessly	39. Mollified
13. Popular cocktail	45. Disappointed	6. American state	42. Touch lightly
14. Sausages	47. Controversial device in soccer	7. Digressions	43. Diego, Francisco, Anselmo
16. Western state	48. 007's creator	8. Tell on	46. Some windows have them
17. Natural desires	51. Pain	9. Brews	47. National capital
19. Defunct British automaker	53. UCLA mascot	10. Belongs to the bottom layer	49. Squirrels like them
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25. Female birds	59. Crime involving fire	15. Expelled air from the nose	55. ___ and thesis: musical term
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CROSSWORD ANSWER on page 13

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AWARDS, from page 1

Professor Burlingham Schurr, a curator for Holyoke's Wistariahurst Museum whose collection of butterflies from around the world still lines the walls of the dining room.

After her parents died, Labonte and her sister inherited the house and the 52-acre plot that was once one of the largest cattle farms in Granby and is now an idyllic landscape that includes mature gardens and a pond.

"I was married here, as was my cousin," said Labonte, 51, who is studying marketing at HCC. "It's such a beautiful and special place, and I want to share the love of this property with others."

If all goes according to plan, Labonte will do just that.

She was one of three HCC students and one HCC alumna to earn entrepreneurship awards this spring from the Harold Grinspoon Foundation. Labonte's business plan calls for creating Harris Mountain Estate, an outdoor venue for weddings, corporate events, graduation parties, reunions, and other special gatherings for up to 175 guests.

"I want to carry on my parents' legacy and share this amazing space," Labonte said.

Also earning Grinspoon awards for their business concepts was HCC culinary arts student Nicole Ortiz of Holyoke and business/culinary arts student Alexandra Clark of Huntington,



HCC culinary arts student Nicole Ortiz serves lunch at the HCC MGM Culinary Arts Institute in February.

Submitted photo

who both plan to launch food truck operations. Clark's is called Lettuce Eat, a mobile organic salad business. Ortiz will focus on serving bright, healthy breakfast items to busy commuters with her

Crave Food Truck.

Each year, the Grinspoon Entrepreneurship Initiative recognizes promising entrepreneurs with monetary awards of up to \$1,000 to assist

them as they get started. Typically, the awards are announced at the Grinspoon Entrepreneurship Initiative banquet, held each spring at the Log Cabin in Holyoke. But because of COVID-19, the banquet was cancelled, and awards announced online.

"This has been a dream of mine for a long time," Ortiz said in February after being selected to participate in Holyoke SPARK's Entrepreneurship for All (E-for-All) Initiative, for which she earned a first-place prize of \$2,500 for her food truck idea. "I've seen a need in my hometown for a wider variety of food options and I can't wait to do my best to bring some fresh, new options to my neighbors in Holyoke and Springfield."

Labonte also participated in Holyoke's E-for-All program this year and earned a second-place award of \$2,000 for Harris Mountain Estate. She said she is now working with town officials in Granby to get the necessary permission to make her business dream a reality.

"I believe it will happen," she said. "It will just take time. I hope to be running by 2021."

Michaela Konig of Westfield received a Grinspoon Spirit Award, which is for revenue-generating businesses. Konig graduated from HCC in 2016 with her associate degree in Visual Art and is the owner of Bloom Aesthetics, a skincare business in East Longmeadow that she opened in December 2019.

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Notaries can act online during pandemic

Gov. Charlie Baker on April 27 signed legislation that authorizes notaries public to perform notary actions using videoconferencing during the Covid-19 public health emergency.

The legislation applies requirements for authorized notaries to use electronic video conferencing for documents requiring notarization, including those related to a mortgage or other conveyance of title to real estate, will, nomination of guardian or conservator, caregiv-

er authorization affidavit, trust, durable power of attorney or health care proxy.

The legislation, which will remain in place until three business days after the March 10 state of emergency declaration is lifted, requires that the notary public and each principal be physically located within Massachusetts and communicating by live video. It mandates that notaries to record and retain a copy of the videoconference and related documentation for a period of 10 years.

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Boys track sought consistent campaign

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

HOLYOKE – Holyoke High School cross country and track have had a great history of success, and the boys track team would have been just as successful as in previous years under Joe Dutsar, who also coaches football for the school.

Dutsar said he had a cautiously optimistic outlook on the season, saying the team would have needed to find consistent performances at each meet this year.

“We had a cautiously optimistic outlook if the right players were able to come together and perform on a consistent basis,” said Dutsar. “With veteran leadership and unclassified speed we were looking to be a better team than we were last season.”

He said he feels for the seniors that will not get an opportunity to compete one last time.

“I feel horrible for my guys,” he said. “But it’s one of those things. We don’t worry about what we can’t control.”

Among the seniors he projects to be part of the team this year was Jacob Swinehart.

Swinehart would have competed in the 200, been part of the relay teams, and would have been a long or triple jumper.

“He was hard-working, dedicated, and one of our top returning scorers from last year,” said Dutsar. Dutsar

See TRACK page 9



The Holyoke High School track team missed on a 2020 campaign that would have included some talented individuals who would have contended for Western Mass. titles in many events.

File photos

Senior athletes to be highlighted in coming weeks

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

The Turley Publications sports department is looking to honor the senior athletes who have had their spring seasons cancelled by the coronavirus pandemic.

Over the next several weeks, the sports section will have stories and photos about the various spring sports teams that were never even able to have a practice, and eventually saw their full season cancelled. You can see them starting in this week’s editions.

We will be talking with spring coaches and athletic directors, but would also love to hear from senior players about their feelings about the

spring season being cancelled.

We hope to also publish action photos of seniors from previous seasons, though parents and coaches are encouraged to send photos of seniors they would like to see published in the upcoming editions of the paper.

If you don’t see your child’s sport in the paper, please encourage your son or daughter’s coach to contact us so they can all be included.

All submissions can be made to Sports Editor Gregory A. Scibelli at sports@turley.com. In the subject line, please identify the school and sport you are writing in about. Senior athletes are also encouraged to write in to talk about the season that wasn’t.

Golf courses allowed to open, carts for those in need

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

After more than a month of waiting, a sigh of relief has come over at least one sport as Gov. Charlie Baker lifted the ban on golf courses. Golf courses were able to open up last Thursday after Baker took heat for being the only state in the country not to allow golfing.

Two golf courses in central Massachusetts, one of them being Wachusett Golf Course, was set to re-open despite the governor’s ban, but Baker lifted it before owners could defy him.

His move was not made without restrictions, many of

which will slightly change how the game is played temporarily, such as the fact that flags must remain in the hole and flags that are hit with the ball not going in the hole are considered a completion of that hole.

One restriction that was met with a lot of unpopularity was the banning of the golf carts, requiring that people walk from hole to hole. For many older golfers, that made the prospect of hitting the course not feasible, and was something that would likely continue to chase golf business to neighboring states, including Connecticut.

But Sunday morning, Baker announced he was lift-

ing the ban on carts, but only for people who show a physical need for them.

According to Mass. Golf, the sport is a \$2.8 billion business in the state. Because golf can be done with a certain level of social distancing, many people have been clamoring for the re-opening of courses.

For now, with a number of guidelines, golfing is now possible for all ages. Not every golf course has opened, but most private courses have made the decision to open. Because Baker allowed course to employ maintenance staff during the full stay-at-home advisory period, most course were kept up

See GOLF page 9

AHL cancels remainder of 2019-2020 season

SPRINGFIELD - The Springfield Thunderbirds, in conjunction with the American Hockey League (AHL) and Chief Executive Officer David Andrews, announced today that the league’s Board of Governors has voted to cancel the remainder of the 2019-20 AHL regular season and the 2020 Calder Cup playoffs due to the ongoing COVID-19 public health crisis:

“After a lengthy review process, the American Hockey League has determined that the resumption and completion of the 2019-20 season is not feasible in light of current conditions. The League’s operational focus has turned toward actively preparing for the 2020-21 season. We are very grateful to the National Hockey League and its teams for their support

and leadership in navigating through the challenges faced over the past two months. The AHL continues to place paramount importance on the health and safety of our players, officials, staff and fans and all of their families, and we all look forward to returning to our arenas in 2020-21.”

The AHL’s standings – sorted by points percentage – and statistics as of March 12, 2020, are considered final and official, and will serve as the basis for determining league awards for the 2019-20 season.

Statement from Springfield Thunderbirds’ President, Nathan Costa

These truly are unprecedented circumstances, and though it is not the outcome that we all hoped for, we fully support the decision made today by the

American Hockey League to cancel the remainder of the 2019-20 season. On behalf of the entire Thunderbirds organization, we would like to thank our great fans for their unwavering support this year as well as the Florida Panthers for their commitment to our city during the first four years of our franchise. Please continue to adhere to all local and federal guidelines in an effort to stay safe, and I can’t wait to see all of you in a few short months to kick off our 5th Anniversary season at the MassMutual Center in 2020-21.

Though the final standings will show the T-Birds on the cusp of a play-off berth for the first time in their history, we continued to make an impact in the Springfield community during our fourth season. We had nine sell-

outs through the shortened 20-21 season, the same number as all of last season, as well as eclipsing the 5,000 per game attendance mark for the second consecutive season with an average of 5,262 per game. Next season will be a special one for the organization, as we begin a five-year affiliation agreement with the defending Stanley Cup champion St. Louis Blues to coincide with the club’s fifth year of existence.

As an organization we have been proactive about reaching out to fans with tickets to remaining games, but if you have not yet made a decision in regards to those tickets, a Thunderbirds representative can help you by calling (413) 739-GOAL or by visiting our Live Chat on our website, www.springfieldthunderbirds.com.

Owls Athletic Department honored by UMass-Amherst

WESTFIELD – Westfield State University Director of Athletics Richard (Dick) Lenfest, Jr. has been honored by his alma mater as a recipient of the Harold J. VanderZwaag Distinguished Alumnus Award from the UMass Amherst’s Mark H. McCormack Department of Sport Management.

Lenfest has been the athletic director at Westfield State since the 2005-06 season. In his tenure, Owls’ athletics has been recognized eight times as the Howard C. Smith Cup winner, representative of the best overall athletics program in the Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference. The Owls won the Smith Cup in 2015, ‘16, ‘17, and 2018, the first four-year sweep in school history.

In the summer of 2018, Lenfest was recognized as an Under Armour Athletic Director of the Year by the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics (NACDA).

During Lenfest’s tenure, Westfield has added varsity women’s lacrosse, men’s ice hockey, and men’s and women’s golf to its sport offerings. Lenfest has also led fundraising efforts that have helped Westfield State to establish its hockey team, improve its baseball and softball fields, and rename its track, creating endowed funds for track, hockey, and cross country, as well as starting the Owl Club annual and corporate giving programs and Owl Club golf tournament to support athletics.

Lenfest is a graduate of the sport management program at UMass Amherst, and earned his MBA from American International College, where he also served as assistant athletic director and assistant women’s basketball coach. Before beginning his career in college athletics, Lenfest worked for ten years in professional baseball as an assistant general manager in the New York Mets

system, with stops in Pittsfield, Mass., and Kingsport, Tenn.

Other 2020 honorees included current Pittsburgh Pirates and former Boston Red Sox general manager Ben Cherington, MS 1997, Catherine Carlson, MS 1998, the Senior Vice President, Revenue and Strategy for the Philadelphia Eagles, and Daryl Jasper, BS 1993, vice president of Learfield’s East Region.

The Distinguished Alumnus Award is named in honor of longtime professor Dr. VanderZwaag’s unwavering dedication and commitment to the department. Honorees are alumni who display professional excellence, outstanding achievement in the sports industry, and dedication to the McCormack Department of Sport Management.

The Mark H. McCormack Department of Sport Management at the University of Massachusetts Amherst is

one of the few sport management programs housed within a business school: the Isenberg School of Management. U.S. News & World Report ranks Isenberg as a top public undergraduate business school in New England, and Isenberg’s online MBA is ranked #3 in the world by the Financial Times (2019).

The Mark H. McCormack Department of Sport Management is one of the oldest such programs in the world, and the program’s network includes more than 2,500 sport industry alumni, featuring leaders and innovators within every segment of the commercial sports industry. The department has one of the top undergraduate programs in the country, and its graduate program—consisting of master’s (MS) level as well as dual-degree (MBA/MS) concentrations—is currently ranked #1 in the world by one of the industry’s leading publications, SportBusiness.

Sign-ups on hold for Quabbin League

REGION – The Quabbin Valley Over-30 Baseball League is seeking new players for 2020 season. The league has six teams, several with open roster spots. Last year, the league voted to allow players age 28 and 29 to be able to join the league, though players under 30 are not eligible to pitch. The cost of the league this season is \$192. For returning and new players, sign-ups have been placed on hold until a determination has been made on the season going forward. The league is

hopefully to begin play sometime in June or July. The season is 15 regular season games plus at least one playoff game. A modified schedule is being worked on by league officials. Games are nine innings and metal (BBCOR -3) or wood bats are allowed. Fields locations are throughout Western Mass.

For more information on the league, or if you are interested in registering, go to <https://www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org/>. The league is also in Facebook.

Valley Wheel looking for new players

REGION – The Valley Wheel Over-30 Baseball League is seeking new players for the upcoming 2020 season. The league is seeking players ages 28 and up. Players turning 28 this year are eligible. However, only players 30 and older can pitch. The league plays 15 regular season games with games being held mostly on Sundays with a couple of weekday games thrown in the mix as well as a special Mother’s Day Saturday game in early May. However, due to the current circumstances, the league schedule has been pushed back. The league

still plans to play its season once bans on gatherings are lifted. The league is built on comradery, fair play, and having a good time with friends. If interested in trying out, go to www.valleywheelbaseball.com. The rules of the league and new player forms can be found on the site. For further information, you can contact the league’s commissioner, Jim Nason at wheel12@comcast.net or call him at (413) 433-4308. Tryouts will be take place as soon as conditions are allowed, but new player applications are still being accepted.

GOLF, from page 8

and ready to go last Thursday when the order was lifted.

Municipally-run courses can be opened at the discretion of the individual towns. Agawam Mayor William Sapelli immediately opened Agawam Municipal Golf Course.

If you are thinking about heading out to the golf course, here are a few of the things you should know to play the game properly and safely under state guidelines: All golfers must maintain proper social distancing of at least 6 feet at all times. Groups of players are restricted to no more than 4 players at one time. Tee Time Policy must be 15 minutes between groups. Golfers must stay in their car until 15 minutes before their tee time and must return to their car immediately following play. All golfers must use their own golf clubs. Sharing golf clubs or rental golf clubs is not allowed.

These are the rules for golf course: Course facilities including but not limited to the clubhouse, golf shop,

restaurant, bag room and locker room must remain closed. Personnel will be present to enforce social distancing. No other employees will be allowed to work at the recreational component of the golf operation. All staff must wear face coverings while on property. Members-only clubs can allow guests as determined by the security personnel on the golf course. Private clubs that allow non-members to make reservations can do so at their discretion. Maintenance personnel are permitted to work on the golf course. Online and remote payment options must be utilized. Flagsticks must remain in the hole. Hole liners must be raised so picking a ball out of the hole doesn’t occur. Bunker rakes must be removed, and ball washers must be removed or covered. Practice putting green, driving range, and chipping areas must be closed. Facilities must have readily accessible hand sanitizer.

It is possible these restrictions will receive another look as the state begins to re-open. Golf is currently the only sport being played in the state.

TRACK, from page 8

added Swinehart will be heading to Endicott to play football.

Gabriel Fernandez, who also was quarterback for the Holyoke football team, was a hurdler and a jumper.

“He was a versatile athlete,” said Dutsar.

Jack Shea would have been a middle distance runner, going in events like the 400, 800, or possibly the one-mile.

“He had a great cross country season and he would have multi-evented

this spring,” said Dutsar. “He was a gritty runner.”

Shea is headed for Harvard University.

Donovan Kro was also a mid-distance runner.

“I was expecting him to have a breakout season as a multi-event threat,” said Dutsar.

The Knights typically have six to eight track meets and would have participated in a PVIAC meet and a Western Mass. meet where qualifiers would seek to make it to the state meet.

The spring season was cancelled for all athletes.

How to contact the Sports Editor

Have the scoop on a local sports story? Want to submit a team photo, pass along a potential story idea, or just find out how to get a copy of that great photo of your young athlete? Please send all sports-related press releases and information to Sports Editor Greg Scibelli at: sports@turley.com or call, 1-413-283-8393.

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The benefits of local newspapers

Local newspapers play vital roles in communities across the globe. The Information Age has changed the way many people get their news, but local newspapers continue to serve as valuable resources for readers interested in learning more about and becoming more involved in their communities.

While local publishers continue to adapt to the changes brought about by technology, the following are a handful of benefits unique to local newspapers.

- **Local newspapers keep readers up-to-date on their own communities.** Globalization may be here to stay, but that does not mean local communities are no longer home to newsworthy events. National and international newspapers and 24-hour cable news channels can keep men and women up-to-date on national and world news, but in many instances, local newspapers are the only means people have to learn about what's going on in their own communities. Local politics impact residents' lives every day, and local newspapers cover local politics extensively.

- **Local newspapers benefit nearby businesses.** Small business owners often connect with community members via local newspapers. A strong, locally based small business community can improve economies in myriad ways, creating jobs in the community and contributing tax dollars that can be used to strengthen local schools and infrastructure. And local newspapers do their part by providing affordable and effective advertising space to local business owners looking to connect with their communities.

- **Local newspapers can strengthen communities.** Local newspapers are great resources for residents who want to become more active in their communities and learn more about community events. Local newspapers often showcase community events like carnivals, local theater productions and projects like park cleanups. These are great ways for readers to become more active in their communities and build stronger communities as a result.

- **Local newspapers can benefit children.** National newspapers may have



little age-appropriate content to offer young children, but local newspapers tend to include more soft news items than national periodicals, and such stories typically are appropriate for young readers. According to Newspapers in Education, students who participated in an NIE group in Florida performed significantly better in spelling and vocabulary

than nonreaders. Additional studies have indicated that students who use newspapers in the classroom perform better on standardized reading tests than those who do not use newspapers in class.

Many local newspapers have played vital roles in their communities for decades, providing a go-to resource for local readers and business owners.

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Courses available for clients of MassHire system



Online courses are available at Springfield Technical Community College. Those utilizing services through the MassHire system may qualify for funding through the Department of Unemployment Assistance.

Submitted photo

SPRINGFIELD – Springfield Technical Community College offers hundreds of online courses that may be available free for individuals who use services provided by the statewide MassHire Workforce System.

The courses can be completed from home to help workers and job-seekers enhance their skills and become more competitive candidates in the job market. Online training may be an ideal option for those out of work and seeking employment during the COVID-19 pandemic. The courses are available 24 hours a day.

David Buonora, assistant vice president of workforce development at STCC, said the online programs are meeting a demand for remote training while the nation practices social distancing. STCC, like other higher learning institutions, has temporarily suspended all on-campus, face-to-face instruction in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and in alignment with state and federal guidelines.

“Whether you’ve recently lost your job, you’re a high school student about to graduate, a career changer or looking for personal or professional development, we encourage you to visit our website and look at the hundreds of online courses available,” Buonora said.

Many Workforce Development Center programs may qualify for funding under the Department of Unemployment Assistance. Anyone who is out of work should contact the MassHire Career Centers in their area for guidance and information.

STCC has established partnerships with several nationally recognized providers of non-credit courses, including Ed2Go and MindEdge, which are providers of web-based education. Students who successfully complete these courses receive a transcript from the college verifying the number of instructional hours awarded.

To learn more and view available courses, visit stcc.edu/wdc/online-education.

New Family Defense Practicum to help children and indigent parents

SPRINGFIELD – The Western New England University School of Law will introduce a Family Defense Practicum into the JD curriculum in the spring of 2021. This immersive experiential learning opportunity is the result of a partnership between University’s School of Law and the Committee for Public Counsel Services, the statewide public defender system.

Working with the CPCS’s Children and Family Law program, the initiative is designed to help alleviate the shortage of certified attorneys who have the time and training to represent families in need in Western Massachusetts. The program will be helpful in preparing students for future CAFL work and those who want to participate in the CAFL Pipeline Program.

“We at CPCS are very excited to have students join us in our work in the Juvenile Courts,” says Barra Cohen, staff attorney at the Amherst-

Northampton CAFL Office. “I think that many people may not realize the important work that is done there. In part that may be due to the fact that in Massachusetts care and protections occur in impounded courts so the public is not allowed in. We hope that this program will help to bring awareness to this interesting and important area of law and in turn bring in passionate new lawyers into the fold.”

Participants in the Family Defense Practicum will spend 16 hours a week at their job site working under the supervision of staff attorneys as student lawyers in the Children and Family Law division of CPCS. The CAFL division provides legal representation to both children and indigent parents in child welfare matters. Student lawyers will have the opportunity to represent parents in child welfare proceedings as well as child clients who are verbal and can articulate their position. They may also have



In the spring of 2021, the Western New England University School of Law will introduce a Family Defense Practicum as part of the JD curriculum. For more information visit wne.edu.

Submitted photo

the opportunity to represent infants and toddlers, in which the student lawyer will aid in substituting judgment for the child.

Practicum applicants must satis-

fy all prerequisites, attend an orientation and weekly seminar and fulfill the requirements for student practice certification under SJC Rule 3:03. For more information, visit wne.edu.

Public officials provide update on Community Tracing Collaborative

BOSTON – On May 7, the Baker-Polito Administration joined Partners in Health and local public health officials to provide an update on contract tracing efforts through the COVID-19 Community Tracing Collaborative (CTC) launched last month. The initiative focuses on tracing the contacts of confirmed positive COVID-19 patients, and supporting individuals in quarantine, building on COVID-19 Response Command Center efforts to leverage public health college students to augment the contact tracing being done by local boards of health.

If an individual tests positive for COVID-19, the MA COVID Team will reach out by phone to connect the confirmed case with support and resources necessary for quarantine, and to identify any close contacts that may have been exposed. As the CTC continues its contact tracing work to mitigate the

spread of COVID-19, it is critical that Massachusetts residents answer the phone when a contact tracer calls or texts. Contact tracers will only reach out from phone numbers with 833 or 857 area codes, and the phone’s caller ID will say MA COVID Team.

Since calls began on April 12, tens of thousands of Massachusetts residents have participated in contact tracing. Staffed with more than 1,600 tracers, the Tracing Collaborative has reached nearly 14,000 confirmed cases and established more than 7,500 of their contacts since calls began on April 12. In part due to effective social distancing measures, the median number of contacts reported by each confirmed case remains approximately two.

To learn more about the MA COVID Team and the Community Tracing Collaborative, visit www.mass.gov/MATracingTeam.

Talent show is city’s latest video contest

The second round of the Holyoke at Home video contests will be a talent show, the mayor’s office announced this week.

All residents of Holyoke are encouraged to get creative while staying home and submit a video of up to 90 seconds showcasing a talent. This can include singing, dancing, cooking, playing an instrument, drawing or reciting an original poem.

The purpose of the contest is to engage residents with each other as well as creating an interactive platform to share different activities, tips and skills to have fun at home during the coronavirus state of emergency. As with the first Holyoke at Home video contest last month, three winners will be awarded, chosen by Mayor Alex Morse, City Councilor Jim Leahy, and a “People’s Choice” determined by online voting. All three winners will receive a

\$100 gift card to the Holyoke business of their choice.

Submissions are being taken until 4 p.m. Friday, May 15. Videos can be uploaded to www.holyokeathome.com, or posted to Facebook, Instagram or Twitter using the hashtag #HolyokeAtHome. Privacy settings need to be set at public in order for videos to be judged. If posting to Facebook, videos should be directly posted to the Holyoke City Hall page (facebook.com/CityofHolyoke), with the hashtag included in the description or title of the video.

Voting for the People’s Choice will begin at 5 p.m. on May 15 and conclude at noon Monday, May 18, at www.holyokeathome.com. The three winners will be announced on Facebook later that day.

For more information, visit www.holyokeathome.com, or email MayorsOffice@holyoke.org.



Annual Press Club Roast postponed until fall 2020

SPRINGFIELD – The Valley Press Club’s Board of Directors decided March 17 to postpone the May 8 Valley Press Club Roast to the fall due to the effects of the new coronavirus.

The Roast, which features humorous sketches about public officials as a

fundraiser for the club’s scholarships to journalism students, is usually held in the spring at the John Boyle O’Reilly Club in Springfield.

Tony Cignoli, noted national political consultant, was to be the emcee. Numerous local politicians, including

area mayors, city councilors and state legislators were expected to attend.

The Roast is similar to the White House Correspondent’s dinner in Washington, D.C. that uses humor to bring both the media and newsmakers together. Peter Goonan, reporter of the

Republican is the chairman of the event. The Valley Press Club, founded in 1960, consists of active and retired journalists and marketing/public relations professionals.

For more information or to become a member, visit valleypressclub.com.

Dakin accepting nominations for humane awards

SPRINGFIELD – Dakin Humane Society is accepting nominations from the public for its Dakin Humane Awards until July 31. Nominees should be people who go out of their way to care for animals in need; people who volunteer to help animals; or people and/or animals who have provided significant public service or shown courage in a crisis.

Finalists in each of the award categories will be picked from among the nominees and notified of their selection in August. The award ceremony will be live streamed at a later date in the fall, and one winner in each of the categories will be announced.

There are five awards to be bestowed. They are:

Frances M. Wells Award – This award is given to an individual recognized for notable contributions to the health and welfare of animals.

Youth Award – This award honors a hero, 16 years or younger, whose extraordinary care and compassion makes a difference in the life of an animal, and makes the world a kinder and gentler place.

Champion Award – This award is given to a public servant who makes life better for tens of thousands of ani-

mals and people in their community. This award recognizes their dedication and compassion on behalf of animals and people in need.

Richard and Nathalie Woodbury Philanthropy Award – This award pays homage to an individual who displays a remarkable sense of stewardship in sharing time, talent and financial resources to improve the lives of animals and people who love them.

Animal Hero Award – This award recognizes an exceptional animal and handler (when applicable) whose valor and extraordinary devotion to people proved lifesaving in disastrous or challenging health circumstances.

“Originally, we had planned to present the 2020 Humane Awards in May,” said Dakin’s Director of Development and Marketing, Stacey Price. “Then the COVID-19 pandemic made that gathering impossible, so we are planning a live stream awards ceremony sometime this fall, which will be announced soon. We are extending our nomination period, and with so many acts of kindness being offered among people these days, we are hoping some folks will nominate someone whose good deeds “For example, it could be someone who cared for a pet

while that pet’s person was hospitalized with the virus. Maybe someone organized a fundraiser to help a person keep their pet when faced with sudden unemployment,” she said. “There are many people who have volunteered at animal shelters, so their dedication could lead to a nomination for them as well. We hope people will nominate someone they know who deserves recognition.”

Nominations are being accepted online only at <http://bit.ly/2NOcgps>. Mail-in nominations will not be accepted. Nominees should be residents of central or western Massachusetts or northern Connecticut.

After July 31, nominations will be reviewed by Dakin Humane Society’s directors and staff, and finalists will be selected. After that, a panel of independent judges will select the winners by voting in each category. The decisions will be based solely on the content of the nomination forms. Nominators are asked to provide thoughtful, concise and specific examples of their nominees’ efforts on behalf of animals.

Dakin Humane Society delivers effective, innovative services that improve the lives of animals in need and the people who care about them from its two

locations in Leverett and Springfield. The organization shelters, treats and fosters more than 20,000 animals each year. Dakin is a local non-profit organization that relies solely on contributions from individuals and businesses. For more information, visit www.dakinhumane.org.



Public Notices

Public Notice
Firms in Significant Non-Compliance
January 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019

In accordance with the Environmental Protection Agency regulation 40 CFR 403.8 (f)(2)(viii)(F), the City of Holyoke, Massachusetts wastewater treatment plant is required to publish annually a list of industrial users in significant non-compliance with applicable pretreatment requirements.

Industrial User: Marox Corporation
Violation: Failure to provide report
Current Status: In Compliance

Violations defined here are those that if ignored, can result in a lapse of monitoring of the Significant Industrial

Users permitted by the City of Holyoke. This monitoring is in place to assure no harmful pollutants are discharged to the collection system. For the period of January 1, 2019 – March 31, 2019, 1st quarter self-analysis was not completed by the SIU. This is the first instance of significant non-compliance for Marox Corporation, as they have maintained compliance outside of this isolated incident.

City of Holyoke
Industrial Wastewater Pretreatment Program
Water Pollution Control Facility
1 Berkshire Street
Holyoke, MA 01040
(413)534-2222

City of Holyoke
Department of Public Works

63 N Canal Street
Holyoke, MA 01040
(413)322-5645
5/15/2020

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Division
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-8600
Docket No. HD20P0535EA
Estate of:
Louis Marion Smola
Also Known As:
Louis M. Smola,
Louis Smola
Date of Death:
5/12/2019
INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE
To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Kristin**

Hodges of Agawam, MA; Petitioner **Karen Merchant** of Springfield, MA a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Kristin Hodges of Agawam, MA; **Karen Merchant** of Springfield, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without surety** on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter

relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.

5/15/2020

LEGAL NOTICE
CITY OF HOLYOKE
GAS & ELECTRIC
DEPARTMENT
WALNUT ST LOWER ROOF
REPLACEMENT

Quotes for the above work will be received until **9:00 a.m., June 18, 2020** by email submission to Yocelyn F. Delgado at ydelgado@hged.com.

com or via drop off or mail to: 99 Suffolk St., Holyoke, MA 01040. Prevailing Wage Rates, which are to apply to the work, are set by the MA Dept. of Labor & Industries. OSHA 10 course is required. A 50% Payment Bond will be required of the selected Contractor.

Mandatory Site Visit:
Interested Contractors must attend a mandatory site visit to be held on June 2, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. The meeting will convene onsite, 91 Walnut St., Holyoke, MA.

For additional information, please contact: Yocelyn F. Delgado (413) 536-9308 or via email to: ydelgado@hged.com

5/15/2020

HOW TO SUBMIT PUBLIC NOTICES

All public notices to be published in the Holyoke Sun should be sent directly to notices@turley.com. Jamie Joslyn processes all public notices for this newspaper and can answer all of your questions regarding these notices. Please indicate the newspapers and publication date(s) for the notice(s) in the subject line of your email. For questions regarding coverage area, procedures or cost, please call Jamie directly at 413-283-8393.

Turley Publications, Inc. publishes 14 weekly newspapers throughout Western Massachusetts. Visit www.turley.com for more information.

Please check the accuracy of your public notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.

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The Sun OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$120, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

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- 1 Email all notices to notices@turley.com
- 2 Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.
- 3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts’ public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

Public notice deadlines are Mondays at noon, Fridays noon for Monday holidays.

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

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Marijuana establishment delivery applications available

WORCESTER—The Cannabis Control Commission will open up licensing applications to prospective delivery-only marijuana establishments and certain microbusinesses seeking delivery endorsements starting on Thursday, May 28. In accordance with Commission regulations, the new adult-use license types will be exclusively available to certified Economic Empowerment Applicants and Social Equity Program participants for a minimum of two years.

Delivery-only licenses and micro-business delivery endorsements were added to the Commission’s host of available marijuana establishment opportunities following the 2019 regulatory process. Historically, the Medical Use of Marijuana program has permitted home delivery to registered qualifying patients and currently 18 Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers offer the service in the commonwealth.

Electronic licensing forms for adult-use delivery will be available to applicants through the Massachusetts Cannabis Industry Portal at MassCIPortal.Com starting on May 28. Prior to submitting a delivery-only license application, eligible businesses will first need to apply for Commission pre-certification in order for the agency to gather information about the entity, individuals associated with the

business, and its plans, policies, and procedures demonstrating its ability to obtain a license. The pre-certification application was developed in direct response to constituent feedback which called for a Commission pre-approval process that would certify an entity’s propensity to open an ME and assist individuals with obtaining lease agreements and other local level approvals.

Once the prospective delivery-only entity receives Commission pre-certification, they may use the approval to support their search for a host community and move forward with the remainder of the licensing process. Eligible microbusinesses may apply for a Delivery Endorsement from the Commission after receiving a provisional microbusiness license. Delivery-only and microbusiness delivery endorsement approvals will follow the Commission’s standard licensing procedures, including provisional and final review and approval, as well as completion of the relevant inspections under the Commission’s regulations.

The Commission has mandated the minimum two-year exclusivity period for certified Economic Empowerment Applicants and Social Equity Program participants will begin once the first licensee has commenced delivery operations in the Commonwealth. All mar-

ijuana and marijuana products distributed by a delivery-only licensee must be obtained from a licensed Marijuana Retailer. Microbusinesses with delivery endorsements may be authorized to grow, manufacture, and deliver their own products directly to adult-use consumers in the Commonwealth.

Certified Economic Empowerment applicants and Social Equity Program participants must meet the respective program criteria and maintain majority ownership (51 percent or more) over the license in order to take advantage of the exclusivity period. As of May, between the two programs, more than 400 applicants are eligible for delivery-only and micro-business delivery endorsement exclusivity, including 122 certified Economic Empowerments applicants and nearly 300 Social Equity Program participants from cohorts one and two.

Adult-use consumers who may wish to utilize delivery services will first need to pre-verify their identity with the marijuana retailer or microbusiness from which they will be ordering products. Under the Commission’s regulations, \$10,000 is the maximum retail value of any marijuana or marijuana products allowed in a delivery vehicle at any one time and licensees must make every effort to minimize the amount of cash carried in a delivery vehicle.

Agents engaged in the delivery of marijuana or marijuana products to a consumer must have an operational body camera on their person whenever they are outside of the delivery vehicle to conduct the transaction. All marijuana and marijuana product deliveries will be tracked using the state’s seed-to-sale system of record. More information about the requirements for adult-use delivery is available under the Commission’s adult-use regulations 935 CMR 500.000.

Deliveries of marijuana or marijuana products by a delivery-only licensee or a microbusiness with a delivery endorsement shall be limited to:

- The municipality which the delivery licensee has identified as its place of business;
- Any municipality which allows for adult-use retail within its borders; or
- Any municipality which, after receiving notice from the Commission, has then notified the Commission that delivery may operate within its borders.

For more information about delivery-only licenses and microbusiness delivery endorsements, visit MassCannabisControl.Com, contact the Commission by emailing Commission@CCCMass.Com or calling 774-415-0200, or follow the agency on Facebook and Twitter.

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In The News

GRANT, from page 1

temporary home in Chicopee, which was in operation for two years and helped people transition from life to death in a dignified manner, was recently temporarily closed so that all efforts could be devoted to the renovation of the new home.

Dozens of volunteers and generous local companies are donating their talent and supplies to complete the home, which was scheduled to open this spring. Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, the completion and opening have been delayed, but work continues safely and conscientiously.

The mission of the Beveridge Family Foundation is to preserve and enhance the quality of life by embracing and perpetuating Frank Stanley Beveridge's philanthropic vision, through grant making incentives in support of programs in youth development, health, education, religion, art, and environment, primar-

ily in Hampden and Hampshire counties, Massachusetts. Mr. Beveridge was the founder of Stanley Home Products in Westfield, Massachusetts.

Harmony House is staffed mainly by volunteers of all kinds – nurses, CNA's, caregivers, companions, and more – and is a non-profit organization, totally privately funded through the generosity of individuals, businesses, and foundations. Contributions are gratefully accepted at all times. For more information, visit the Harmony House website at www.harmonyhousewma.org.

"Some day you may need us; right now, we need you." Please visit the website at www.harmonyhousewma.org or send your checks to Harmony House of Western Massachusetts, P.O. Box 6135, Holyoke, MA 01041. Harmony House is a 501(c)(3) corporation. If interested in learning more or becoming a volunteer, please contact Harmony House by email at harmonyhousewma@gmail.com.



Peter Weston from the Beveridge Family Foundation, Pamela Quirk of Harmony House, and Ward S. Caswell, President of the Beveridge Family Foundation, after touring the construction work at the new Chicopee location of Harmony House of Western Massachusetts. The Beveridge Family Foundation has granted the organization \$35,000 towards the renovation of their new home for the terminally ill.

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Over the past few weeks we have seen a sharp increase in fresh meat prices, due to limited supply, and high demand. We will not run out of meat, however certain items or cuts may be less available than others. Our frozen sections continue to provide great values with an extensive selection and variety, and are a great alternative, we encourage you to check them out! Please note, beginning May 6th, per the order of the State of Massachusetts, anyone entering the premises must wear a face covering and we will be required to refuse entry to anyone who does not comply. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation during these unusual circumstances. Be well and stay safe!

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